

Welcome to the Northwest Maneuver Area Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) website we have established to keep you informed about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers efforts to conduct the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Site Investigation (SI).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating FUDS that had historically been used for military training located within the Northwest Maneuver Area (NWMA) consisting of approximately 8 million acres, including portions of Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Grant, Lake, Harney, and Klamath counties in Oregon. Encompassed in its boundary are six separate FUDS Sites. They are Central Oregon Air to Air Gunnery Range, Camp Abbot, Fort Rock Maneuver Area, Redmond Precision Bombing Range, Redmond Air to Ground Gunnery Range, Redmond Army Air Field.

DoD acquired 6,890,880.08 acres of land in 1943 from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior under special use permit. Land was used by the Department of Defense (DoD) to facilitate a large scale force-on-force exercise during September, October, and November 1943 prior to deployment of the 4th Army into its World War II theatre of operations.

Six FUDS sites are included within the boundary of the NWMA. The NWMA consists of over 8 million acres with the inclusion of these other FUDS sites. The six FUDS sites include Central Oregon Air to Air Gunnery Range, Camp Abbot, Fort Rock Maneuver Area, Redmond Precision Bombing Range, Redmond Air to Ground Gunnery Range, and Redmond Army Airfield.

Historical records indicate that 11 intact M1B1 anti-tank training mines were found in 1987 on the property of Terry Gratrix located 6 miles northwest of the town of Christmas Valley.

A tear drop shape AN-MK43 practice bomb was found in 1988 in the sand dunes approximately 14 miles north of the town of Christmas Valley.

While conducting a site survey of a related FUDS property, personnel from the St. Louis District completed the site inspection for the NWMA by inspecting the property of Mr. Terry Gratrix on May 22, 1995. Four additional anti-tank training mines were observed. It was noted that the mines were apparently excavated and removed to the location where they were observed.

Records indicate that the units trained with blanks and inert munitions during the 1943 maneuvers. However according to press accounts, live ammunition was on hand but it was not to be fired.

Prior to DoDs use of the NWMA, the site was comprised of six defense sites, small farms and ranches, and federal resource agencies owned/managed lands. The Corps will do this evaluation by conducting a MMRP SI. The SI will be conducted by a Corps contractor, Shaw Environmental. The work to be performed will include

access to and a visual inspection of property that was part of the former site. The inspection may also include soil and or water sampling.

The SI will be used to determine future work the Corps may do the clean-up of possible Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste. The Corps of Engineers cleans up sites contaminated with hazardous waste, radioactive waste, or ordnance and complies with federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.

In order to begin the SI the Corps will be contacting property owners of the NWMA site and request the owner to provide a signed Department of the Army Right of Entry Environmental Assessment and Response (ROE).

If you have ideas that would make this website more useful to you, please let us know.